



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN BACKS NUTRITION BILL

Congressman Henry A. Waxman, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health and Environment, has announced his support for a measure which would greatly increase federal activity in the area of nutrition. The bill, authored by New York Congressman Fred Richmond, would focus special attention on the nutritional problems of children and older people.

'We know that many senior citizens suffer serious health problems because they do not eat properly. Sometimes this is due to poverty, more often it is the result of the inability to get out and shop, and prepare adequate meals. Seniors living alone often feel depressed and isolated, and lack the incentive to maintain a balanced diet,' Waxman said.

Despite moves by the Reagan Administration to reduce spending on the school lunch program, Waxman expressed the belief that this program will, in the long run, be maintained at an adequate level. The congressman said sentiments among both Republicans and Democrats ran strongly against the reduced lunch portions the Administration recently proposed and subsequently withdrew.

Waxman insisted that federal spending on nutrition will actually save the government money.

"Malnutrition frequently results in serious illness. Both in the case of elderly people, and the case of children from lower income families, these illnesses are treated at taxpayers' expense. Improvement of nutrition among school children and seniors would greatly reduce spending by the Medi-Cal and Medicare programs."

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